

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 02970 150845Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 ACDA-12
AGRE-00 COME-00 EA-10 ARA-10 MMO-01 /141 W
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P R 130615Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9196
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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PAGE 02 DAR ES 02970 150845Z

AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2970

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR

SUBJECT: THE EXPANDING CIRCLES OF FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY:
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE US

REF: PARIS 21494

1. SUMMARY: FROM THE STANDPOINT OF US INTERESTS, THE FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY CIRCLE FOR AFRICA (REFTEL) DOES NOT LOOK AT ALL GOOD TO US HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTEL STRIKES US AS VALUABLE AND INTERESTING CONTRIBUTION TO UNDERSTANDING FRENCH TRENDS AND POLICY WORLDWIDE AND SPECIFICALLY IN AFRICA. AS ALWAYS, HOWEVER, ONE COMES ALMOST IMMEDIATELY TO THE QUESTION OF WHICH AFRICA WE ARE TALKING ABOUT. AS FAR AS TANZANIA (AND WE WOULD GUESS SOME OTHER NON-FRANCOPHONE STATES WITH WHICH IT IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED) IS CONCERNED, FRENCH POLICY AND ACTIVITIES ON THE CONTINENT ARE HELD IN LOATHING AND CONTEMPT. WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE ABLE TO TRUST FRENCH MOTIVATIONS, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE OF HOW THE FRENCH APPROACH CAN BE COMPATIBLE AND COMPLEMENTARY TO OURS.

3. THE BASIC QUESTION IS HOW CAN WE BEST DEFEND WESTERN INTERESTS IN AFRICA. FRANCE'S RECENT WILLINGNESS TO PICK UP THIS ROLE THROUGH MILITARY INTERVENTION AND SUCH IDEAS AS A PAN-AFRICAN
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PAGE 03 DAR ES 02970 150845Z

FORCE HAS CAST DOUBTS ON THE BONA FIDES OF THE ENTIRE WEST IN THE MINDS OF NYERERE AND OTHERS. INDEED, IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE WE QUICKLY AND CLEARLY DISASSOCIATED OURSELVES FROM THE FRENCH THAT WE WERE ABLE IN THE PAST MONTH OR TWO TO MAINTAIN OUR BONA FIDES WITH THE PROGRESSIVE AFRICANS. NOT TO HAVE DONE SO WOULD HAVE LOST MOST OF OUR CHANCE TO ACHIEVE CONSTRUCTIVE MOVEMENT ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AND TO ABANDON THE INFLUENCE WE ARE BEGINNING TO DEVELOP WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN LEADERS ON ETHIOPIAN AND OTHER AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

4. IN TERMS OF STRESSING SOVIET AND CUBAN ADVANCES IN AFRICA, WE WEREN'T AWARE HERE THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING PARTICULARLY USEFUL THAT WE OURSELVES WANTED TO BUT NO LONGER COULD DO THAT THE FRENCH HAVE TAKEN ON FOR US. INSOFAR AS THIS MIGHT INVOLVE THE SUPPLY OF TROOPS OR, IF WE MAY BE A BIT GRATUITIOUS, CONTINUED ENCOURAGEMENT AND COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WE WOULD THINK OUR DIFFERENCES WITH THE FRENCH WOULD IN FACT BE MORE ONES OF OBJECTIVES THAN OF EMPHASIS AND TACTICS.

5. IN SUM, THE US WAY OF TRYING TO CHANNEL AND HARNESS (WE WOULD PREFER WORDS LIKE COOPERATE AND CONSULT WITH) THE POLITICAL IMPETUS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PROMISES TO BE MUCH

MORE SUCESSFUL IN THIS PART OF THE CONTINENT THAN FRANCE'S WAY. WE COULD, PRESUMABLY, DECIDE TO LET -- OR EVEN PRIVATELY ENCOUR- AGE -- FRANCE TO DO THE DIRTY WORK FOR US ELSEWHERE, BUT, THAT IS HARDLY A BASIS FOR THE KIND OF HONEST AND OPEN RELATIONSHIP BASED ON AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS THAT IS OUR BASIC FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVE.

6. AT THE RISK OF BEING EVEN MORE GRATUITIOUS, (A) WE CERTAINLY SEE UTILITY IN TRYING TO CONVINCE THE FRENCH OF OUR REASONS FOR PUTTING PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON RELATIONS WITH THE FRONT LINE STATES AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY; (B) WE CAN HARDLY REFUSE TO LISTEN TO THEM TRYING TO CONVINCE US OF THE VALUE OF THEIR OWN APPROACH TO STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA; (C) WE ACCEPT THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING AND DIALOGUE WITH FRANCE, A CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 DAR ES 02970 150845Z

MAJOR WESTERN POWER, ON EUROPEAN AND EAST-WEST MATTERS; (D) BUT AN OBJECTIVE OF MUTUALITY OF ATTITUDE ON AFRICA TERRIFIES US. SPAIN

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Message Attributes

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